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Attorney Docket No. 1296-015

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Date 11/29/02 By M. J. [Signature]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)

Röcheleau, John W.)

Serial No. 09 / 764,473)

Filed: January 17, 2001)

For: PIPE FLANGE AND)
PIPING SYSTEM)

Art Unit: 3629

Examiner: Dunwoody, A..

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DEC 09 2002

GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action finally rejecting claims 1 – 13 of the above application, from which a Notice of Appeal was filed on August 28, 2002, the Applicant has elected to accept allowable claim 14 and withdraw its Appeal, contingent upon the allowance of the pending claims. Accordingly the Applicant hereby cancels claims 1 and 8 – 13, without prejudice, and will continue prosecution of the claims via a concurrently filed Continuation Application.

As set forth on pages 2 hereof, the Applicant has amended claims 14 and 2 – 7 in accordance with the Examiner's helpful comments. Accordingly, it is felt that the amendments place the application in condition for allowance and the Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendments to the claims be entered.

10